

# Wave Lashes India

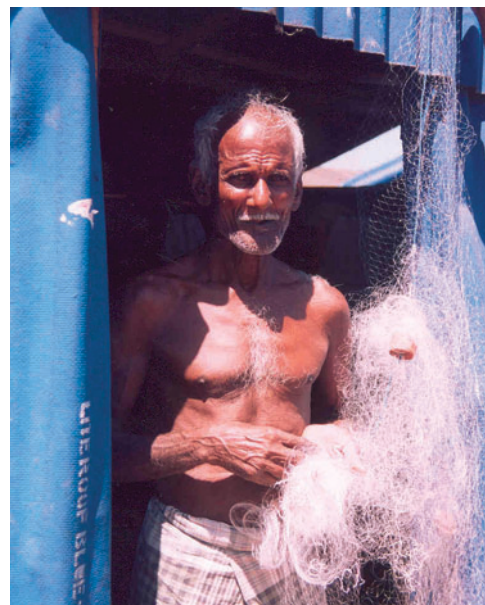
REBECCA SCHEURER / USAID



## U.S. Government Aid to India

**Totalled \$4.1 million as of April 1, 2005 including:**

- Water for 82,000 people
- Eight day care centers
- 1,500 temporary shelters
- Latrines for 27,000 people
- Waste removal at four relief camps
- 20,000 water tanks



KRISTEN KELLEHER / USAID

**LEFT:** Children at an Indian camp for displaced tsunami survivors fetch water from a tank provided by relief workers.

**ABOVE:** An Indian fisherman in a displaced persons camp repairs his nets while waiting for the chance to return to the sea.

**“We had the capability and the resources to successfully deal with this disaster,” said Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran.**

It was 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) from the earthquake epicenter to the shores of Tamil Nadu State, where waves began hitting two hours after the quake. All along the Bay of Bengal coastline high water caused \$1.6 billion in damage, India's government said, with another \$600 million in damage to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Close to 11,000 died and 5,600 were missing, with another 112,000 displaced by the disaster. The deaths were especially poignant among primitive tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands where 2,500 died and nearly all of India's missing had been living.

Some 40,000 people on the islands were still living in relief camps more than two months after the tsunami.

Although still a developing country, giant India—the world's most populous democracy with more than 1 billion people—moved swiftly to provide relief to its own citizens as well as to help Sri Lanka.

India's National Institute of Disaster Management had planned for disasters—generally from floods and cyclones—and

“we had the capability and the resources to successfully deal with this disaster,” said Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran.

India also joined the United States, Japan and Australia in the core group of countries coordinating early aid efforts.

The World Bank estimated, in mid-March, India's overall rehabilitation and reconstruction needs at \$1.2 billion, mainly in housing and fisheries, restoring livelihoods, infrastructure and agriculture.

While U.S. government aid was not requested, some private U.S. aid did go through Non-Governmental Organizations to relief work in India. By mid March the affected areas had already moved from relief to reconstruction, although many people still depended on relief.